and are suffering from acute water shortage?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise, as no spcific detailed project report for setting up of desalinating sea water plant, to meet shortage of drinking water in Madras or any other city in the country has so far been received.

Promotions to the Post of Assistant Manager on ad-hoc basis in Telecom Factories

877. PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about fifteen Assistant Engineers or Engineers of Telecom Factories have been promoted to the post of Assistant Manager on ad-hoc basis without holding the proper departmental promotion committee meeting;

(b) whether in the process of such ad-hoc promotion some meritorious service holders have been denied their rightful claims for being promoted as Assistant Managers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what steps are proposed to be taken to remove the discontentment amongst the meritorious staff holding the post of Assistant Engineer/Engineers in Telecom Factories in the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAI PARKASH): (a) Yes, Sir. Since the promotion is on purely ad-hoc basis for a period not exceeding one year, no regular DPC was convened and the promotion was purely on seniority-cum-fitness.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) In view or reply to (b) above, does not arise.

Possibility of the use of nuclear weapons in the Gulf War

878. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY:
SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the statements made by key U.S. authorities indicating the active consideration of the use of nuclear weapons in the Gulf war; if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(b) whether Government are prepared to review their nuclear policy and to consider using their option of converting our nuclear weapons capability into nuclear weapons grade capacity if the U.S. actually uses nuclear weapons in the Gulf War?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) During a television interview of 2nd February, 1991, the US Vice President, Quayle said, "I just cannot imagine President Bush making the decision . . . . to use chemical or nuclear weapons under any circumstances." The US Vice President suggested that Allied conventional forces were so superior that a "proper response to a first use of chemical weapons by the Iraqi's would be to continue our very devastating campaign with conventional weapons." He indicated however, that the administration will "never rule any options out. The Government issued a statement on 8th February, 1991, expressing deep concern on this issue. A copy of the Statement is attached.

Statement

Government of India is deeply concerned over statements made recently by the parties engaged in the Gulf conflict, emanating from very high levels, regarding the

possible use of nuclear and chemical weapons. The use of chemical weapons is regarded as inhuman and reprehensible by the entire world community and is prohibited by international law. The use of nuclear weapons can unleash death and devastation beyond the theatre of war, affecting both combatants and non-combatants alike. It constitutes a threat to the very survival of mankind. The use of nuclear weapons has been regarded by the United Nations General Assembly as a violation of the UN Charter and a crime against humanity. Moreover, the Security Council, while prescribing the use of "necessary means" in its Resolution No. 678, could not have conceived including nuclear weapons as falling within these means. The Government of India calls upon all parties engaged in the Gulf conflict strictly to abjure the use of nuclear or chemical weapons or any other weapons of mass destruction.

Reduction in Bus Services by DTC

879. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to shortage of diesel Delhi Transport Corporation has reduced its bus services;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the number of commuters have increased considerably these days and if so, what steps are being taken to provide better services to the commuters in the Capital;

(d) whether it is also a fact that due to increase in the number of commuters the incidents of unruly scenes at the starting points of buses have also increased;

(e) if so, what steps have so far been taken in this regard;

(f) whether Government propose to depute mobile checking staff and police personnel at these points to control queue breakers; and

(g) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of answer to (a) above.

(c) The average number of passengers carried daily increased from 46.37 lakhs in December, 1990 to 47.81 lakhs in January 1991. During the same period, the average number of buses deployed increased to 3866 in January 1991 as compared to 3826 in December, 1990. During 1990-91, DTC has been given sanction for the purchase of 506 buses on replacement account. Of these, 209 buses have already been procured and for balance 297 buses, action to procure is underway and the same are likely to be added to the fleet by end June, 1991. In addition, Government propose to accord sanction for acquisition of another 394 buses on replacement account this year.

The Delhi Administration have also decided to introduce 100 buses on a point to point basis to augment public transport system.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise in view of answer to (d) above.

(f) The Traffic Supervisory Staff of DTC are posted at selected starting and other heavy loading points in order to ensure smooth clearance of traffic, proper parking of buses etc.

(g) A Statement showing the names of the places where traffic supervisory staff of the DTC have been posted is annexed.